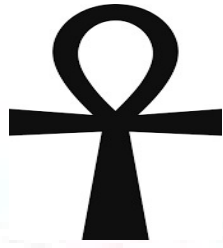


Andrew Q. Wajid



Celebration of Life



November 26, 1945 – September 21, 2023

Janazah Services:

Friday, September 29, 2023

Abundant Life Enrichment Church

4701 E. Hanna Ave

Tampa, FL 33610

Life Testimony

Brother Andrew Quadir Wajd, surrounded by family, love and laughter, transitioned on Thursday, September 21, 2023, with the same peace that filled his life. He was born to the late Lucy Mae (Jones) Banks, on November 26, 1945 in Emporia, Virginia. After accepting Islam and joining the Nation of Islam (NOI) in 1971 at age 25, with self-contemplation and intention, he changed his name from Andrew Sylvester Jones to Andrew Quadir Wajd. Quadir means “The Able” and is one of the names of Allah. The Able means he who is able to do anything in the way he wills. “Wajd” is also one of the names of Allah and means “The Perceiver or Finder.” A perceiver is one who becomes aware through the senses and uses that information to inform their interactions with the environment. A finder seeks understanding and truth and finds whatever he wants at the time he desires. Brother Andrew embodied “Wajd.”

Brother Andrew was raised in Chester, the oldest city in Pennsylvania. Born the eldest of 10 children, he learned early, sometimes painfully, the lesson of sacrifice and the importance of being a protector and provider for his family and friends.

He attended the Chester public school system, and when he came of age in the early 1960s, Brother Andrew, like many young brothers during that era, joined the United States Navy. He was stationed in Virginia and his ship was manned outside of Puerto Rico. He completed one tour of duty aboard the USS Boxer, a transport vessel for the Vietnam War. Brother Andrew worked as Lead Hand in the vessel’s boiler room, where he was responsible for ensuring the adequacy of the boiler system’s water pressure. He was honorably discharged after three years of service.



Brother Andrew’s disciplined work ethic persisted after moving to Boston, Massachusetts in search of a career. He served NOI’s Mosque #11, later Masjid Al-Quran, where he served the Muslim elders. He drove taxis, cleaned office buildings, and eventually joined General Electric, remaining there for over 25 years. Brother Andrew began his GE career as a sanitation worker, but retired in 2003 as a turbine engine Inspector, responsible for reviewing blueprints, and disassembling and inspecting the engines of commercial aircraft to ensure their safe use. His professional progression was a product of planning and intellectual curiosity. He embodied ‘Wajd’.

Towering at 6’3, in confidence and style, he preferred tailored hats and suits and knew he was “Sharp as a Razor’s Edge,” as he’d like to say. As a proud NOI man, he paired suits with dress shoes that shined. Self-proclaimed, “Cool Papa Jack,” and a lover of jazz, you could find him in his white Apple Cap (Kangol) playfully and correctly identifying almost any artist booming from the record player. At times he’d say, if he could have started over, he would have been a musician. In his retirement, harnessing that dream, he had the opportunity to take saxophone lessons, desiring to play like his favorite musician, John Coltrane.



Although he was sure of himself, there was one person in his life who could make him anxious, she was then named Sister Lateefah Shaheed. After years of establishing a supportive friendship and one year of an NOI-chaperoned courtship of Sister Lateefah between Rochester, New York and Boston, Brother Wajd proposed. Nervous, he asked, “How would you like to spend the rest of my life with me?” Sister Lateefah gave a helpful response: “Are you trying to ask me to marry you?” Though he did not have a ring at the time of proposal, he had a plan, and Sister Lateefah trusted him to lead. The two married in 1986.

Soon after their marriage, Brother Andrew and his wife found themselves maintaining a long-distance marriage: Sister Lateefah in Tampa, Florida raising their young children and caring for her elderly mother, and Brother Andrew in Boston, where he could earn a more meaningful income for his family. For over 15 years, Brother Andrew worked in Boston while fulfilling his duty to his family in Tampa. When the separation seemed too overwhelming, he’d comfort

Sister Lateefah with a patient perspective, saying “You can’t reap and sow at the same time, dear.” Over the years, he and his wife nurtured their love and their mutual quest for truth and understanding, reading the same books, especially historical and spiritual texts, and holding discussions with each other from the masculine and feminine perspectives.

El Hajj Andrew Wajd was ever-becoming in his understanding of self and he was consistently curious. His hunger led him to make Hajj or pilgrimage to the sacred city of Mecca (Saudi Arabia) in 1980. Every day in his retirement, you could find him sitting in his favorite chair by the fireplace reading various texts and subjects ranging from the Quran, ancient Kemet, Black history, to electrical circuits and networks (sometimes even prompting him to cut open circuits to experience what he'd read, to the dismay of his family).



The information he learned, he shared, and then he sought more information. He could explain complex social, racial and political issues in simple terms, attracting the interest of others, both young and old. His children's friends would always eagerly ask them, "What does your father think about [that]?" Committed to the development of historical and religious education for Africans in America, he founded "Know Thyself Communiversity" Bookstore, which he and Sister Lateefah operated for almost 15 years. He and Sister Lateefah traveled to Egypt in the summer of 2009. He'd tell you this was the most spiritually transformative experience of his life.

Brother Andrew sought to live and interact with intention. Rarely was he emotionally charged. He opted for patience, presence, and consistency as he dispensed his wisdom to anyone who needed to "catch his drift." He loved with action. He adored his children and grandchildren. He'd meet them where they were, holding conversations, getting on the floor with Lego blocks, and bouncing as many children as he could hold on his knees.

Even with all his reflection and contemplation, he was not without a sense of humor – though he may have thought he was funnier than he actually was. He would make sarcastic jokes, usually with delayed landing, which may have been the joke itself.

Brother Andrew had a remarkable love for Sister Lateefah. He was her consummate provider, protector and best friend. He listened and learned from her as they strived to elevate their immediate and extended family.

Brother Andrew is predeceased by his two brothers, Lennox and Michael Banks and his son DuVaughn Abdullah Shaheed. He is survived by his wife, Lateefah Wajd; his four children Hassan Saddiq (Brandi), Basil Ibn (Kellee), Naimah Muslimah Wajd and Paulette Wood; his grandchildren Abdur-Rahiim, Lateefah, Ashanti, Khary, Qaseem, Qadiir, Jazmyn, Jasara, Qamar, Basil Jr. and Ayyana; great grandchild Amir; his siblings Delores Jones, George, Yvonne, Eartha, Gertrude, Calvin and Keith Banks; and a host of cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and mentees.



Order of Service

Libation

Slide Show/Musical Prelude

Surah 3:25-26

Formal Readings of Life Testimony

Informal Reflections (2 min max)

Janazah

Eulogy

Closing

Surah

...when we gather them together on the day about which there is no doubt, when every soul shall be fully paid what it has earned, and they will not be wronged. Say: Oh Allah Owner of the Kingdom...Thou exaltest whom thou please and bringest low who thou please. In thy hand is the good. Surely Thou art Possessor of power over all things (Surah 3:25-26)

Thank you and Acknowledgements

The family would like to thank everyone for their calls and condolences in this hard time. They would like to send a special thanks to Sis. Alicia Muhammad, Sis. Greta Lumpkin, Sis. Naimah Ponder and Sis. Paulette Muhammad for the care they provided the family during Bro. Wajid's final days. Brother Carlito that participated in the ghusl al-mayyit as well as the MGT that provided food and prayers.

Funeral Services

Gudes Funeral Homes
4050 E. Hillsborough Ave
Tampa, FL 33610

Cemetery

Rest Haven
4615 E. Hanna Ave
Tampa, FL 33610

Repast

Wajid's Family Hone
2020 E. Clifton St.
Tampa, FL 33610

